Checking MRP Violations

†*290. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the existing provision regarding percentage of difference to be maintained between actual cost and printed price in regard to packaged consumer goods including food items;

(b) the arrangements made for checking this in order to prevent its violation;

(c) whether any action has been taken by the Central Government on the complaints received during the last three years; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) There is no provision regarding percentage of difference to be maintained between actual cost and printed price in regard to packaged consumer goods. The Standards of Weights & Measures (Packaged Commodities) Rules, 1977 require declaration of Maximum Retail Price inclusive of all taxes on the package of a pre-packed commodity by the manufacturer or the packer along with other specified information.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Growth rate of Agriculture *vis-a-vis* foodgrain stock

†*291. SHRI MANGANI LAL MANDAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of targeted growth rate of agriculture achieved during all the years of Tenth Five Year Plan, so far, alongwith the target fixed for growth rate of agriculture for the remaining years and the efforts being made to achieve the same; and

(b) the status of storage of foodgrains due to non-achieving the required and intended growth rate of agriculture?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a)

†*Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.*

The figures of growth rate of agriculture including the allied sectors of forestry & logging and fishing, achieved *vis-a-vis* the targeted growth rates during the Tenth Plan are given in the following table:—

Year-wise Growth rate in agriculture and allied sectors during the Tenth Plan

(Growth of GPD at factor cost at 2001-02 prices)

Year	Tenth Plan Target	Actual/MTA*
2002-03	3.5	-6.8
2003-04	3.7	9.5
2004-05	4.0	1.1
2005-06	4.2	4.0*
2006-07	4.4	3.2*
Tenth Plan (2002—07)	4.0	2.2*

Source: Planning Commission

*Mid-Term Appraisal (MTA) of the Tenth Five Year Plan (2002—07)

Note: The Plan does not have annual targets, and the year-wise figures shown for the Tenth Plan are obtained through intrapolation.

(b) Due to severe drought that affected several States/regions in the country, foodgrains production during the first year of the Tenth Plan, *i.e.* 2002-03 declined by about 18% to 174.77 million tonnes from 212.85 million tonnes in 2001-02. The second year of the Tenth Plan i.e. 2003-04 witnessed significant increase in foodgrains production to 213.46 million tonnes, which however, declined to 204.61 million tonnes in the subsequent year, reflecting the impact of deficient rainfall in 2004-05. The steep decline in foodgrains production in 2002-03 did not have any adverse effect on food security as the stock of foodgrains in the Central pool remained high, much above the buffer norm levels. Stock of foodgrains continued to remain well above the buffer norm levels during 2003-04, which witnessed record production of foodgrains at 213.46 million tonnes. Despite the decline in production of foodgrains to 204.61 million tonnes in 2004-05, the stock of foodgrains in the Central pool as

on 1st July, 2005 stood at 25.11 million tonnes, which was marginally short of the revised buffer norm of 26.90 million tonnes. The marginal shortfall in stock *vis-a-vis* buffer norm reflects the combined impact of lower procurement of wheat in 2005-06 at 14.79 million tonnes compared with 16.80 million tonnes in 2004-05 and upward revision in buffer norm for 1st July for wheat to 17.10 million tonnes compared with the pre-revised norm of 14.30 million tonnes.

Infant mortality rate

*292. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the infant mortality rate in India is much higher than that of the neighbouring countries like Bangladesh, Sri Lanka etc.;

(b) if so, the details thereof in term of percentage and how it compares with countries like Bangladesh, Nepal and Sri Lanka;

(c) whether it is also a fact that India tops in the births of under-weight babies and neonatal mortality;

(d) the reasons for this alarming situation;

(e) what is the Tenth Plan goal in these areas; and

(f) what are the special measures in the offing and undertaken to bring down these problems?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMDOSS): (a) to (e) It is true that the Infant Mortality Rate (IMR), proportion of births of underweight babies (low birth weight) and Neonatal Mortality Rate in respect of India compares unfavourable with the neighbouring countries of Bangladesh and Sri Lanka.

The details of Infant Mortality Rate (IMR), proportion of births of underweight babies (low birth weight) and Neonatal Mortality Rate in respect of India and neighbouring countries as published in "UNICEF — The State of the world's children 2005" and 'The World Health Report 2005, published by WHO' is given at enclosed Statement (*See* below). While the Infant Mortality Rate of India for the year 2003 has been